

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

March 26, 2001

Council

President

Clarice J. Kestenbaum, M.D.

President-Elect

Marilyn B. Benoit, M.D.

Past President

David B. Pruitt, M.D.

Secretary

Robert J. Harmon, M.D.

Treasurer

Martin J. Drell, M.D.

Chair, Assembly

of Regional Organizations

of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Joseph J. Jankowski, M.D.

Thomas Anders, M.D.

William Arroyo, M.D.

Steven Cuffe, M.D.

James MacIntyre II, M.D.

John March, M.D., M.P.H.

Lynn Ponton, M.D.

Mark Riddle, M.D.

Ulrich Schoettle, M.D.

Sandra Sexson, M.D.

Jean Thomas, M.D.

Jerry M. Wiener, Resident Member

Sam Judice, M.D.

Executive Director

Virginia Q. Anthony

Journal Editor

Mina K. Dulcan, M.D.

AACAP News Editor

David Waller, M.D.

Program Committee Chair

Laurence Greenhill, M.D.

The Honorable John Dingell
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

On behalf of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, I would like to thank you for your efforts to reform the managed care system by protecting patient's rights.

Legislation that you have sponsored, the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001, H.R. 526, ensures timely access to pediatric specialists and continuity of care for children and adolescents with mental illnesses. The appeals process for denials of care set out under the bill provide strong accountability for managed care organizations and protections for patients.

The AACAP is a medical membership association established by child and adolescent psychiatrists in 1954. Now over 6,700 members strong, the AACAP is the leading national medical association dedicated to treating and improving the quality of life for the estimated 7 – 12 million American youth under 18 years of age who are affected by emotional, behavioral, developmental and mental disorders. AACAP supports research, continuing medical education and access to quality care.

Again, we thank you for your sponsorship of H.R. 526. We are encouraged by the bipartisan support for this bill and are eager to work with you and Representative Ganske to ensure its passage. Please contact Mary Crosby, Deputy Executive Director, or Nuala S. Moore, Asst. Director of Government Affairs at 202.966.7300, ext. 127 or 126 for assistance.

Sincerely,



Clarice Kestenbaum, M.D.
President

3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016-3007
202.966.7300 Fax 202.966.2891
Email executive@aacap.org
<http://www.aacap.org>